



Budget Signals Commitment to Corrections Reform

Agency Secretary Says Agreement Provides Needed Tools for Change

For Immediate Release
July 27, 2004

Contact: J.P. Tremblay
(916) 323-6001

Sacramento – Youth and Adult Correctional Agency Secretary Roderick Q. Hickman today praised Gov. Schwarzenegger for holding firm on the budget and providing the Correctional Agency the resources it needs to continue reforming the state's prison and detention systems.

"This budget will provide us with the resources needed to help us move forward with reform and change while ensuring fiscal accountability, management accountability and staff accountability," Hickman said.

The new budget includes nearly \$5 million to fund and expand the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and create the Office of Independent Review within the OIG. The OIG and the new office will audit and oversee the operations of investigations of the Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority. The budget also includes nearly \$2 million to fund improvements in the internal employee disciplinary process for the Department of Corrections.

In addition to improvements in the internal investigations of the Departments, the budget also, for the first time, includes funding to create an agency level victim services function that will advise the Secretary and the administration on issues of concern to crime victims.

"The crime victims of this state will be heard and have a loud voice in the process," said Hickman.

Along with funding the victims services function, the budget funds the creation of needed agency level positions that will be responsible for research issues, policy and planning functions, and labor issues. These new positions will give the Secretary greater control over the functions of the agency that cross departmental lines and will help streamline those functions in the future.

"We can no longer have the departments and boards of this agency operate with their stove-pipe mentality unaccountable to anyone. These new functions will help coordinate operations, control costs and make the Agency and its departments and boards more efficient and more effective," Hickman said.

Youth and Adult Correctional Agency

News



-More-

Commitment to Corrections Reform

July 27, 2004

Page 2

Some of the other provisions in the budget will create greater fiscal accountability for the departments. For example, Department of Corrections officials now will tie each position at each institution, and the resources needed to fund them, to specific budget authority. This will allow the department to create individual budgets for each prison and realign needed resources based upon the mission and program needs of each institution.

“That means each warden and manager can be held accountable for their budget and should not come begging for deficiencies at the end of every fiscal year,” the Secretary said. “If they can’t manage their budgets then maybe they shouldn’t be managing a prison.”

This budget also includes \$99.5 million to fund relief positions for staff who are either sick, on vacation, on family medical leave or in training. This relief provision should address one of the most significant factors that has driven overtime costs so high in the past, Hickman noted.

Included in the budget is \$18.2 million to cover the costs of transporting inmates to needed medical appointments or emergency medical treatment outside the prison walls.

The budget also includes savings of more than \$26 million through efforts to control medical costs within the Department of Corrections. Some of those savings will be achieved by increasing the number of staff that will negotiate rates paid to medical service providers, review bills and contracts, and audit medical expenses throughout the system. Some of those savings also will be achieved by:

- Modifying its prescription practices on four high-cost drugs categories, using alternatives such as generic drugs that will not compromise the therapeutic benefits or quality of care standards for inmate patients (\$4.8 million savings).
- Implementing a standardized protocol for Hepatitis C treatment by using CDC physicians to perform liver biopsies in CDC medical facilities instead of contracting for those services with outside providers (\$1.2 million savings).
- Establishing in-prison hemodialysis treatment centers as an alternative to community-based treatment, which currently requires a correctional officer to accompany the inmate when he or she goes out to treatment.